

with small dark centres; feathers of scapulars and interscapulars centered by clove brown with creamy margins. Lower parts pure white, except traces of faint spots across breast and on flanks; wings and tail resembling those of adult plumage; tertials widely bordered with cinnamon.

Carpodacus mcgregori *Anthony.* MCGREGOR'S FINCH.

We found examples of *C. mcgregori* distributed over the two large Benitos, but on account of their extreme shyness they were difficult to obtain. We were at the islands too late to collect eggs, but I secured three young birds about ready to leave the nest. The parents had constructed their nest about two feet above the ground in a century plant (*Agave*). It was made after the fashion of *C. frontalis*, of a miscellaneous lot of bark, twigs, and fibre. The three young are of different sizes, of which the smallest is here described.

No. 1041, ♂ nestling, coll. R. C. McG., San Benito Island, Lower California, March 29, 1897. The young plumage differs in coloration but little from that of the adult female. Upper parts heavily marked with clove brown, edges and tips of feathers cinnamon; lower parts streaked with clove and cinnamon; tertials and rectrices broadly edged and tipped with wood brown.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW *AMMODRAMUS* FROM
LOWER CALIFORNIA.

BY RICHARD C. MCGREGOR.

Ammodramus halophilus,¹ sp. nov.

LAGOON SPARROW.

Sp. char. — Most closely related to *A. rostratus guttatus*, but "uniformly larger and much darker; upper parts decidedly olivaceous instead of olive grayish."²

¹ ἅλς, salt of the sea; φιλέω, to love.

² From letter of Mr. R. Ridgway, May 12, 1898.

Type, ad. ♂, No. 1001, coll. R. C. McG., Abreojos Point, Lower California, April 19, 1897. Dorsal surface olivaceous; feathers of scapulars, inter-scapulars, occiput, and crown with clove brown centres. A line of chrome yellow extending from nostril over eye as in *A. bryanti*. Forehead and side of head, including auriculars and malar region, tinged with yellow; throat white; feathers of breast with a wash of yellow, centres with deltoid clove brow spots; markings of sides and flanks lighter and more cuneate, edged with wood brown; wings and tail near sepia, edges lighter.

Wing, 68.5 mm.; tail, 55.4 mm.; tarsus, 20.5 mm.; culmen, 13.2 mm.; depth of bill at base, 7 mm.

Hab. Salt marshes in the vicinity of Abreojos Point, Lower California.

Mr. Ridgway has kindly compared my series of Abreojos Point birds with the two examples of *A. guttatus* in the National Museum. He has sent me the following table of average measurements:

	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed culmen.	Depth of bill at base.	Tarsus.	Middle toe.
<i>A. halophilus.</i>	2.63	1.92	0.51	0.26	0.84	0.63
<i>A. guttatus.</i>	2.525	1.875	0.44	0.23	0.825	0.605

This Sparrow was found in a salt marsh about five miles long by half a mile wide. The common amphibious plant known as glasswort (*Salicornia ambigua*) covers the moist ground. The entire marsh is cut by tide creeks, which empty into a salt lake or pond lagoon. As this marsh is surrounded by ocean on one side and hot desert on the others, it is probable that *A. halophilus* is confined to this region.

We stopped at Abreojos Point on April 19, when I secured sixteen Lagoon Sparrows, together with a nest and three eggs. Individuals were very abundant, but rather shy, keeping at such long range that my auxiliary barrel was useless. Most of the birds were in perfect spring plumage.

On June 17 we made a second landing at Abreojos, and although we expected to secure young birds not one was taken by any of the party. The adults were in worn plumage, and in the oviducts of several females we found eggs on which the shell was formed.

The three eggs collected April 19, 1897, measure, respectively, $.79 \times .58$; $.80 \times .58$; $.78 \times .58$. The ground color is very faint bluish-white, — lighter than in *A. sanctorum*, — heavily marked all over with large blotches of raw umber and smaller spots of lilac; these markings much heavier than in *sanctorum*. A few hairlike lines of blackish run over small end of one egg and about its small diameter. Nest larger than that of San Benito Island species, made of salt grass and lined with fine shreds of grass and a few feathers of *Larus*.

The setting parent was flushed from this nest while I was about fifteen feet distant, and became very uneasy in voice and action. A careful search revealed the rest, sixteen inches from the ground, in a tall bunch of glasswort, the top of which was bent over and in to form a covering. The eggs were concealed from a top view, and entrance to the nest was possible from one side only. The taking of incubated eggs at this date, and of laying females in June, shows that two broods are raised in a year.

GENERAL NOTES.

The Pacific Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla pollicaris*) in Lower California. — On March 17, 1897, I shot a fully adult Pacific Kittiwake, at San Geronimo Island, Lower California, about 200 miles south of the United States boundary line, thus extending the known range of that species to Mexican waters.

For the past three winters I have found the Kittiwakes of regular, though not common occurrence, off San Diego, California, and about the Coronado Islands. — A. W. ANTHONY, *Portland, Oregon*.

Capture of the Short-tailed Albatross on the Coast of Southern California. — The Zoölogical Department of Stanford University, California, has been recently presented with a fine specimen in the flesh of *Diomedea albatrus*.

It was taken at San Pedro, Los Angeles Co., Cal., on April 3, 1898, by Mr. Cloudsley Rutler, who shipped it to the Museum of the Department.

This bird being of rather uncommon occurrence on our coast here, I send this notice of its capture. — ROBT. B. McLAIN, *Stanford University, Cal.*